

Follow Up Report: #2022075

March 11th, 2022 – Thickener Process Water Spill

The following information relates to spill 2022075 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited on March 11th, 2022, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2AM-MEL1631 Water License, part H, item 8c.

Description of Incident

On March 11th, 2022, there was an overflow of approximately 5 m³ of thickener process water on the industrial pad, outside the process plant.

The coordinates of this spill are 63 2'11.5"N, 92 13'35.3"W. No water bodies were impacted by this spill; the closest water body (G2) is approximately 600 m northwest.



Figure 1: Location of the March 6th, 2022, thickener process water spill.



Figure 2: Thickener process water spill clean up area

Spill Response & Cleanup

The topography of the area and the freezing conditions caused the thickener process water to pool and freeze on the west side of process road. A loader and haul truck were used to clean up the material. All material collected was placed in the process plants sump where it will be returned to the process plant system. Additionally, the overhead walkway on the top of the thickener tank was cleared of ice.



Figure 3: Pre-clean up of the overhead ice on the thickener tank (caused by humidity)



Figure 4: Post-clean up of the overhead ice on the thickener tank

Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

The investigation into the cause of the release identified ice build at the overflow discharge pipe. The ice buildup resulted in a blockage of the discharge causing the thickener tank to overflow. The following corrective measures are being implemented:

- Visually inspecting the top of the grinding thickener/clarifier feedbox every 2 hours and clearing snow if safe (See figure 3 and 4).
- Ensuring there is adequate water flow from the clarifier feedbox to the grinding thickener by removing some baffle on the clarifier feedbox (completed).
- Preventatively cleaning the grinding thickener overflow launder to regain a full capacity.
- Installing air vent system on the grinding thickener overflow pipe to the process water tank.
- Pouring a concrete secondary containment.
- Installing an additional thickener tank which will split the flow going into the grinding thickener.



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